

From: anthony@verizon.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 9:32pm
Subject: Microsoft Anti-Trust Settlement Agreement

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Anthony Liguori and I am a software engineer and an avid user and developer of Free Software. As a developer, the proposed settlement in the Microsoft anti-trust case is a bit concerning to me. While I fully support free market and am a firm believer in capitalism, Microsoft has clearly used unethical and illegal means to protect their monopoly. I do not see how the simple "slap on the wrist" settlement currently proposed, will prevent Microsoft from abusing the power they currently have in the software market.

The free and open practice of business is absolutely essential to the survival of our system of government, but just as a dictator uses his power to ensure that his government stays in power, a business can use their power to ensure that their power is preserved. Our government thrives because our constitution has provisions to prevent any person or group to have too much power. The same applies to our economy and it is the responsibility of the Department of Justice to ensure that this is enforced.

I feel as if the Department of Justice has given up the fight. Just as Hitler should have been stopped at Munich, Microsoft should have been stopped when it bundled Internet Explorer with Windows 95. Let us learn a lesson from history. World War II tested the very limits of our democracy, but we stood through it and democracy prevailed. It may seem a little extreme to compare Nazism to Microsoft but Microsoft is just as much of a threat to our free market as Nazism was to democracy. It is the duty of the Department of Justice to stick through the fight. Let it be known that while the fight seems difficult and does not appear to be one that can be won with a great deal of glory, the support of the American people is behind you.

Respectfully,
Anthony Liguori